

The Observer

THINGS INTERESTING TO THE DEAF

VOL. V.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1913

NO. 106

OPINIONS ON PURE ORALISM

By J. H. Cloud, in *Silent Worker*.

Not long ago strong influences were brought to bear upon the Board of Directors of the New York (Fanwood) Institution for the Deaf to have it changed from a combined system to a "pure oral" school. Fortunately for the cause of education of the deaf the movement did not succeed. The New York Institution is the second oldest in America. It has always stood in the van for the best results in the education of the deaf. The after school record of its graduates and former pupils fully justifies the eclectic methods employed in their education. No oral school has ever surpassed the New York Institution in oral work. No oral school has ever been able to give its pupils as good a general practical education. No oral school has so well conserved the happiness of the deaf who entered within and passed beyond the range of its influences.

Professor Enoch Henry Currier, the efficient head of the New York Institution during the past quarter of a century, met the advances of the oralists with the unanswerable concensus of opinion of the educated deaf themselves, including the orally taught, as to the practical relative value of the combined system and single oral method of instruction. The concensus of opinion of the educated deaf—not only in America but in oral ridden Europe—in the United Kingdom—in France,—and in Germany is this:

THE MOVEMENT IN FAVOR OF PURE ORALISM IS THE ACME OF UNWISDOM AND MIS-

DIRECTED ZEAL

Professor Currier has rendered the cause of education a notable service and won the lasting gratitude of the deaf of the world by publishing in pamphlet form numerous letters of protests against the proposed invasion of "pure oralism" into his school. The pamphlet is neatly and attractively printed and bears the very appropriate title:

THE DEAF

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

The Volta Bureau which exists "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge relating to the deaf" should see to it that Professor Currier's valuable contribution to the store of knowledge relating to the deaf is translated into modern languages and extensively circulated throughout the civilized world. More especially should it be

brought to the immediate attention of school boards, parents, associations and the public generally, in this country. The National Association for the Advancement of the Deaf without doubt will be glad to co-operate with the Volta Bureau in such a needful and worthy undertaking.

As space in this department is limited, we can only give a few of the pointed excerpts from statements by the deaf orally taught and by those taught under the Combined System found in Professor Currier's pamphlet.

In the "foreword" of his pamphlet Professor Currier, speaking after a highly successful experience of more than forty years has this to say:

"Theoretically, speech, and the ability to recognize speech signs, is considered as affording to the deaf the highest development. The theorist fails to recognize the fact that, to the deaf, speech does not produce the effect, arouse the enthusiasm or restore to society, as in the case of the normal individual. Lip signs are the least effective in arousing, stimulating or enabling unhampered interchange of thought between individuals."

Isaac Goldberg, chemist, New York:

"I do not feel I owe my powers of speech and lip-reading to the Oral people seeing I possessed these faculties before I entered their schools. The school may have helped to develop these powers but what I am today I certainly do not owe to my ability to speak or read the lips. I, however, know positively the learning I now have which enables me to earn my living, I obtained from the manual school exclusively."

Alexander L. Pach, photographer, New York:

"I have thirty-two years of experience to back me up in my statement that the exclusive use of Pure Oral methods, in the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, is as senseless as it is heartless as it is a robbery of God-given rights and therefore a crime against them."

Frank R. Gray, lens maker, Pittsburgh:

"To banish signs from the schools is to take a backward step a hundred years. Even Germany, the home of oralism, is now waking to her stupendous error, and the use of signs is being more and more permitted. The opposition of the deaf to oralism is universal. England, Germany, France, Italy, all are unanimous in their anta-

gonism to the method, and the oral graduates themselves are most frequently the bitterest foes of the method, for they feel they have been deprived of a full education, theirs by right, to waste their time to gratify the egotism of impractical theorists."

Jay C. Howard, of the Howard Investment Co., Duluth:

"Pure" (there is no such thing) oralism has not a leg to stand upon. It is a Fad, and a Fancy, a Delusion and a Snare. It is a menace to the deaf mentally and morally, and robs them of the happiness and peace of mind God meant for them."

Anson R. Spear, manufacturer, Minneapolis, Minn.:

"The real test of the efficiency of a school for the deaf—of methods of education—is to be found, it seems to me, not in the school itself, but in the results as we find them in the outside world. Whether this be the correct view to take, or not, I must insist that the results as I have found them in my active life in the world, go to prove that the sign-language is beneficial to the deaf. It enables them to exercise better judgment, broadens and strengthens their understanding, enables them to take a deeper and more comprehensive view of the affairs of life. Those who have had the benefit of the sign-language are stronger, and more aggressive, and take a more active part in the daily affairs of life. It enables them to enjoy life—to get real happiness and joy out of existence. Take the sign-language from them, and you deprive them of the one blessing that surely partially recompenses them for the misfortune of deafness."

Sylvia C. Balis, teacher, Belleville, Canada:

"From the standpoint of a totally deaf person, proficient in speech and lip-reading, and with forty years' experience in the art, I can only say that lip-reading at its best is a matter of skillful guess work, and a sorry mess we sometimes make of it. In ordinary conversation it is a doubtful means of communication. In a matter of importance and in a business transaction lip-reading alone is not to be depended upon. * * * It is through signs alone that we are enabled to receive instruction, information, pleasure and benefit, from a public address. It is a rapid, graphic and sure means of communication, to which every

(Continued on Page Fifth)

TACOMA

If there were any sober-sides at our "cut a caper" party we didn't see them. Indeed, we were so struck anew with the saying, "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men," as demonstrated by some of our most dignified "pillars of state and society" that we were inspired with the following:

Who was it in the game "Boston Town,"

In triumph held the last chair down?
No more nor less a man than he,
Our talented and scholarly Mister B.—

Who was it in the game "Travelers"?
Brought to our eyes mirthful tears?
No more nor less a man than he,
The dignified pres. of the P. S. A. D.

And of them all, those lunatics,
Who was it cut the most antics?
Who, in the pantomime, monkey shav-
ing,

With laughter set the company rav-
ing?

Why, who could it be but he,
The honored pres. of the N. A. D.

The antics of the company didn't end with the breaking up of the party at Music Hall, if the following incident is a fair sample: The above mentioned "pres. of the P. S. A. D." forgot to bring along his nightie. (It was his first trip to Tacoma and maybe he thought we slept in our clothes.) Therefore, at 2 a. m., alone with his host, Chas. Hammond, he was in a great dilemma (literally in that and nothing else), until he espied a frilly garment belonging to his hostess, which he thereupon transferred from its peg to his back. We wonder if he found that feat as hard as he did the donning of feminine togs in the game "Travelers."

Mr. and Mrs. Bertram invited everybody to come out to their ranch Sunday. We have inside information from outside sources that they have been minus several chickens since then. Miss Alice Hammond and her mother took their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Olof Hanson and their three children out to the Bertrams in the auto, which added to the enjoyment of the trip.

Great credit is due Miss Alice Hammond, chairman of the committee, for the success of the party Saturday eve, and also to her mother, who exerted herself so much to make the occasion a pleasant one. Thanks are due to everyone else attending for entering so heartily into the spirit of the affair.

Besides Mr. Partridge, already mentioned, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hammond had as their guests from Seattle for the party Miss Cleon Morris and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Swangren. Mr. Swangren and his wife are much struck with Tacoma, its environments, its beauty, its atmosphere (both findable

and indefinable) appeal to them. Take notice there, ye Spokane scribe. By the way, the Spokane deaf must be a patient and long-suffering class to tolerate for an instant in their midst such a Philistine as their scribe must be! To loudly bewail his longing for Seattle! Bah! Why don't they get up a benefit and purchase him a ticket for his beloved city? And if they would do so and arrange that he would have to pass through Tacoma, we would attend to the rest and silence for ever that nerve-racking wail. The sooner it's done the better for that last poem (?) of his was about the limit.

Sometimes The Observer's office devil cracks a joke (unintentionally, of course). As witness this item in the last issue of the paper: "Whenever Miss Seeley and Miss Hammond get their heads together, which same is quite often, they always contrive to turn up at the very next show nicked, of course." Nicked? Well, we are glad to know their heads can be nicked. That couldn't be said of black heads and black heads are the only kind we don't want in Tacoma. As for being called "Miss," Mrs. Seeley doesn't mind that at all. It rather pleases her if the truth must be told.

Albert Minnick suffered a painful accident about a week ago when he fell and cut a gash in the back of his head. It was necessary to have several stitches taken in the wound.

For the last two weeks we have been expecting the arrival here of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Weaver of Ellensburg, who have been spending the winter in Nebraska. They were in Omaha at the time of the tornado. This is Mr. Weaver's first experience with the weather of that region and we shall not be surprised if he refuses to again take his life in his hands by going back there.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

Mr. Henry Fritz has obtained a patent for his moving picture machine from Washington, D. C.

The mission was organized by Mr. Lewis last fall and there are 18 members enrolled.

The Amopola Club is still growing fast. The officers of the Amopola Club are: President, Simon Himmelschein; vice president, William Cook; secretary, U. Cool; treasurer, Arthur Nolan.

Mr. Bert Burress of Joplin, Mo., and Miss Emma Schultz, a member of our club, were married February 20. After a short honeymoon they departed for their future home in Joplin, Mo., where Mr. Burress is in business. Their marriage was a surprise to us. We all join in congratulating them.

Our visitors from the East this winter are: Mr. Singleton of Fulton, Mo.,

Mr. Samuelson of Chicago; Miss McKee of Illinois.

SPOKANE

Mr. and Mrs. McKerbell are the latest additionals from California. We are pleased to make their acquaintance. Mr. McKerbell is a butcher by profession and has secured work.

Leo Brown has had quite enough of city life to last him for a long time. He longs for the farm, where he will in the near future drive his stakes.

J. B. Bixler was in Spokane April 6th to purchase a new motorcycle. Clear the road, all you chicks.

Spokane is enjoying all kinds of weather this spring.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Banister are figuring on an Eastern visit in the near future.

Norman Barney has not been enjoying the best of health of late, but we wish him a speedy recovery.

Miss Amelia Bergeson is now doing dressmaking work for Mrs. Barney.

Mr. and Mrs. McKerbell are the couple referred to before in the last issue. The writer wishes to state that this couple is a highly respectable and sociable young pair and we wish them the best of success.

**SAN FRANCISCO SWAL-
LOWS CALIFORNIA**

A Seattle man has received the following, which explains itself:

The California Association of the Deaf has retired from the field. In its place has come the San Francisco Deafmute Club which will be known as a branch of the State Association.

The launching of this club took place in an enthusiastic meeting at the Averill Hall on March 29th. The members will pay 50 cents as dues per month. Non-members can come on the payment of 25 cents per night, while the ladies are free.

The accommodations are unsurpassed, three parts of the building being at our disposal — a homelike front hall for the weekly meeting, the lobby for the use of the members every day, and a large hall for state occasions which can hold an audience of 500. All the utensils for suppers are complete.

Remember the address: Averill Hall, 149 Mason Street, 2 blocks from Market Street. Mr. d'Estrella has an uncommonly fine attraction for us in a slide show for April 5th. Come and make a success of the San Francisco Club. Note that the ladies are free.

E. E. NORTON, President.

S. R. BEMIS, Secretary,

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THE OBSERVER

AGATHA TIEGEL HANSON, EDITOR
W. S. ROOT - - Associate Editor

The Observer is issued every two weeks on Thursday. It is published in the interest of the deaf everywhere.

TERMS:

One Copy, one year.	\$1.00
One Copy, six months.	.50
One Copy, three months.	.25
Canada, one year.	1.50

Advertising rates given upon Application

All contributions must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for views and opinions expressed by correspondents in their communications.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions, subscriptions and business letters should be addressed to

L. O. CHRISTENSON, Publisher.
2 Kinnear Building, 1428 Fourth Ave.
Seattle, Wash.

Entered as Second-Class matter, Nov. 25, 1909, at the Postoffice at Seattle, Washington, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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TIME TELLS

Last summer we received a letter complaining that the price of The Observer was too high, that the Silent Review was being printed for 50 cents a year.

We preferred to let time tell its tale. It has done so.

The Observer still lives while the Silent Review is dead.

Moral: Don't think an independent paper for the deaf can live on nothing.

MAY BE POSTPONED.

Owing to the terrible loss by floods in Ohio it is possible that the N. A. D. convention scheduled to be held in Cleveland the later part of August, may be postponed for a year.

Much aid is needed in the stricken district and the deaf of Ohio may have difficulty in raising a sufficient fund to properly entertain the convention.

SILENT REVIEW SUBSCRIBERS

We are sending The Observer to a number of the former readers of the Silent Review. We hope any such who like a live, wideawake independent paper for the deaf will fall in line and subscribe for The Observer. Some have already done so.

NEW SUPERINTEND-

ENT IN KANSAS

Mrs. Kate Herman, one of the chief officials of the school for the Deaf for many years past, was called to Topeka by telegram last Friday morning and when she returned Saturday evening she had in her possession the appointment of superintendent of the school of which she is to take charge July 1. This appointment is particularly pleasing to Olathe people and to the people in general over the state, for they know that she is one of the

most competent teachers in the United States, having taken her oral training at the celebrated Fanwood School in New York. Her executive ability also peculiarly fits her for this position. We predict that she will be attended by unbounded success. She is the only woman in the United States to be at the head of a deaf school. Her appointment is especially gratifying to Mrs. Herman as it came unsolicited.

Mrs. Herman displaces C. E. White, who has been superintendent here during the two Stubbs administrations. Mr. White says that he is delighted that Mrs. Herman received the appointment as she is undoubtedly highly qualified for the position. Mr. White has made no definite arrangement yet for another school. During his four years of service here there has been no friction whatever at the school and affairs have run smoothly. Mr. White understands well the handling of the deaf and many will regret to see him leave Olathe, because he was no less popular outside of the school than in it.—Olathe (Kansas) Mirror.

Mrs. Herman, we understand, has a leaning toward oralism, but it is doubtful if she will try to change the school from combined to oral.

THE PENNSYLVANIA HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM DEAF,
DOYLESTOWN, PA.

The Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf located in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, seems to have had its origin in the desire of the late Rev. Henry Winter Syle, the first president of our Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf to formulate "a plan of usefulness to unite the changing numbers who attend each Convention, and also the rest of the (then) 3,000 deaf-mutes of the State." In his first address to the Society as President at its second meeting in the Spring Garden Institute, Philadelphia, in 1884, he said: "What would be nobler than to unite in alleviating the misfortunes of such of our number as are in the deepest distress? * * * We have not the means by ourselves to establish or support a Home of any kind. What we do must be on a very limited scale, especially at first. But we can do something, shall we try?"

Then, after recounting the several cases of blind deaf-mutes met by Mr. Syle in his pastoral work, their pitifulness and isolation, he continues: "My proposal is that we establish a fund to be known as 'the Benevolent Fund of the Pennsylvania Deaf-mutes Association.' Let a fixed part of the membership dues be paid into it—say twenty-five cents out of every dollar. Donations may be hoped for as people become acquainted with the good work."

Subsequent consideration of Mr. Syle's suggestion resulted in the es-

tablishment of such a fund, but for some years the committee to look after this "fund," reported no money and no action, yet the idea ultimately resulted in the establishment of the present Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf at Doylestown.

For many years it was considered impracticable to establish a Home at all, much less to support it after it had once been established, and at one Convention, (I do not exactly recollect which just now,) it was unanimously resolved to abandon the idea of establishing a Home. It seems, however, there was some misunderstanding about the resolution, for the following winter a self-appointed committee got to work and through a number of subscription blanks distributed among the deaf over the State collected over \$600. The large amount apparently so easily raised, and the evident latent enthusiasm in many a deaf person over the project put heart into other deaf men and women, so that when the next Convention met there was nothing but enthusiasm for the project, and the fund went on increasing until the Society had slightly over \$5,000.

Then it was decided to purchase a Home. Of course, there were many properties offered, many far beyond the means of the Association. Fortunately a very desirable Home was offered to the Committee having the matter in charge, by one Mr. William Stuckert, an attorney of Doylestown, and father of two deaf girls who were then attending the Mt. Airy School. The property was a beautiful residence that had cost to build \$21,000, and was offered to the Trustees of the proposed Home for \$6,800. Of course, the property was accepted. \$4,150 was paid in cash, and the balance on mortgage. It happened that the owner was an old man who was very deaf himself. This old man later became so interested that he very frequently visited the Home and gave freely of his money, and finally on his death willed the Home \$2,000.

On taking possession of the Home many changes had to be made. A new steam heating plant was installed, and a water supply tank installed, etc., etc.

The support of the Home has come largely from the deaf themselves, although of course, help has come from many of their hearing friends. Still it was very hard work at first, but all bills have been paid right along, and today the Trustees have an endowment fund of about \$7,000 and there is a yearly income of about \$1,500 from the deaf themselves. At present there are about twenty inmates, all happy, well fed, well cared for.—Rev. C. O. Dantzer in "The Hoosier."

LOCAL ITEMS

Bible class next Sunday.

P. S. A. D. meeting Saturday night.

Joe Kitzinger expects to leave for Alaska soon.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ecker were in town last week.

The Axling children are enjoying a siege of the measles.

Mike Brown now has Australia in his eyes as a future abode.

Mrs. A. K. Waugh is expecting a visit from her sister in Chicago soon.

Eddie Spieler laid off from work a few days this week with a bad head.

E. Harry Langdon has wondered north toward Bellingham in search of wealth.

Erve Chambers is expected in town any day now from Spokane. We'll all welcome him.

We understand Aug. Koberstein expects to take a position out of town for a month or so.

Gus Anderson, formerly of California, is now working in the Galbraith & Bacon dock warehouse.

Bert Haire dropped in on us the other day. He is slowly recovering from the serious injury to his hand. His employers are anxious to have him return to work.

Rev. Fedder has been suffering from a hard cold lately, but was sufficiently recovered to preach last Sunday and was favored with a good attendance.

Mrs. Hanson received an interesting letter from Elene Rykrogen, who is employed at the Minnesota School. Elene was a little girl during Mrs. Hanson's last year as a teacher. She says in her letter that she always looks for The Observer in the reading room and enjoys it. She is going to subscribe for it soon.

WAUGH IS CHAMPION

Roy Harris has been dragged off of his pedestal. He is no longer fishing champion.

Last Saturday Alfred Waugh, Roy Harris and True Partridge, heavily loaded with fishing tackle, cold tea and ambition, left for the fishing ground.

On their return r. Partridge brought three four-inchers, Roy brought a long face and Mr. Waugh twelve trout. This is a disastrous beginning for Mr. Harris, still he may finish up the season all right.

John Adams joined the party at Renton, but we understand his catch of fish was nearly as scarce as clothes before fig leaves came into use.

PROFITABLE FIRE

Several of our gentlemen who went to Tacoma have been wearing new hats since their return. As we do not read the Tacoma papers we are unable to say how disastrous a conflagration took place in our suburban town at that time.

CLEMENT B. COFFIN
Jeweler and Optician

We replace Broken Lenses.

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406 PIKE STREET

SEATTLE, WASH.

MOVING PICTURE

DATES CHANGED

Owing to delays in receipt of films the schedule announced in the last issue of The Observer will be set forward one week, as follows:

Seattle—April 16-19, at the Melbourne Theater.

Tacoma—April 23-26, at the Melbourne Theater.

Spokane—April 30-May 3, at the Spokane.

Portland—May 7-10.

Vancouver, Wash.—May 14-17, at School for Deaf.

Salem, Ore.—May 21-24, at School for Deaf.

SEVENTY-NINE YEARS OLD

Mrs. Hanson invited Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Tousley to come to her house the afternoon of Sunday, April 6. She expected a few of the deaf to drop in for a little tea in honor of Mr. Tousley's birthday. But Mr. Tousley was so weakened by a cold that he was unable to walk the distance to the Hanson house, and when the company assembled they found the hero of the occasion missing. On the principal that when the mountain will not go to Mohamet, Mohamet must go to the mountain, the little party then proceeded to the Tousley home on North 57th Street. A pleasant time was spent in looking over Mr. Tousley's numerous and interesting scrapbooks, and in hearing a few of his entertaining reminiscences. After the refreshments were sampled, a small sum of money was presented to Tousley with which to select his birthday gift.

BE IN SEATTLE JULY 3-6

The local committee held its first meeting last Saturday night to plan for the coming state convention.

While nothing definite is yet given out, plans were discussed and the prospects are that the coming convention will exceed the very successful one of two years ago.

The deaf all over the state should begin to lay aside the wherewithal to bring them to Seattle July 3 to 6. A fine time is assured them.

STILL LONGS FOR SEATTLE

J. W. Langkam, who spent some time in Seattle a few years ago, is now located at Hersey, Mich. He would be glad to return to Seattle if he were sure of a steady job here.

THE OHIO HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM DEAF.

The Home is situated at Central College, Franklin Co., Ohio, about 11 miles northeast of Columbus.

It was established by an incorporated association of the graduates of the Ohio School for the Deaf and was opened in 1896.

Dr. Robert Patterson is president of the Board of Managers. Supt. J. W. Jones is a member of this board. Secretary McGregor in his report speaks of the many courtesies extended and help rendered by Supt. Jones when help was most needed.

There are thirty resident members in the Home and "all have enjoyed good health for their advanced ages, as the physician was called only three times during the past year except for Mrs. Vandever who had the misfortune to break a limb by falling."

The Home has four buildings and 116½ acres valued at \$18,000.

According to the report of the treasurer, Mr. C. W. Charles, for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1912, the total receipts from every source amounted to \$18,813.79. The expenditures for maintenance was \$3,130.67; for a new building was \$2092.90; for improvements \$1507.10, and for emergency \$25.00, making a grand total of \$6,755.67 with a balance in the various treasuries of \$12,058.12. The average per capita expense for the 30 persons in the Home was \$104.35 last year.

According to a law in Ohio the infirmary officials of each county may transfer any deaf person to the Ohio Home for the Deaf and pay the Home the annual per capita cost from the county treasury. During the past fiscal year \$2639.18 was received from the different county treasurers, and \$538.47

from the sale of surplus things produced on the farm. The superintendent of the Home manages the farm so well that last year 1000 bushels of corn was placed in the cribs, 136 bushels of wheat was realized, besides 800 quarts of strawberries, 900 quarts of fruit canned, 40 gallons of apple butter made, and 30 gallons of pickles put up for winter use. All the vegetables needed for the table use was produced in the garden. The live stock on the farm consists of five horses, one colt two years old, seven cows, one calf, three sows, sixteen shoats, thirteen spring pigs, sixty old and seventy-five young pullets, and twenty turkeys.

(Continued on Page Fifth)

deaf person is entitled and which does not interfere with their acquisition of written or spoken language, but adds a hundred fold to their enjoyment of life."

Mattie H. Thomas, Utica, N. Y.:

"The educated deaf are not opposed to oral instruction in the schools, as is generally supposed. It is the **Pure Oral** method that they are fighting against with such bitter determination. Their reason is based upon the fact that the percentage of deaf children whom oral instruction would really benefit, is very small compared with that which includes the mentally deficient and those who can never learn to speak or read the lips."

George M. Teegarden, teacher, Wilkinsburg, Pa.:

"The deaf do not object to speech and lip-reading. They know it is a great advantage to those who can attain to a working proficiency. The combined schools provide this as well as the oral schools, and at the same time educate those who cannot profit to any great extent by pure oral methods. This is so apparent it seems a waste of time to state it.

"The value of signs in social intercourse, in presentation of lectures and moral instruction, cannot be overestimated and here is where the happiness of the deaf is mostly concerned."

Francis P. Gibson, Grand Secretary National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, Chicago:

"The adult deaf—the educated deaf—are united in their stand on this question. They know what is best for their class; they speak with the experience that only is gained by having gone through years of it. They will say with one voice—and that voice not the artificial and mechanical voice of pure oralism—that signs are indispensable and the Combined system the only rational one to use."

Alice C. Jeanings, writer, one of the most distinguished products of "pure oralism," Melrose Highlands, Mass.:

"I was educated by the pure oral method, and, up to a few years ago prejudiced against the use of any other. But, within the last decade, experience and observation have greatly changed my views, and I now think the sign-language useful at many points * * * It is significant, certainly, that those who most thoroughly understand the sign-language, are also those who most thoroughly approve of it. Others should not condemn a thing the utility and beauty of which they do not at all understand."

Oliver J. Whildin, clergyman, Baltimore:

"The oral method is committed to the elimination of the sign-language. Now while I believe that the use of everything essential should be regulated, suppression and elimination is both undesirable and impossible. You cannot eliminate the sign-lang-

uage of the deaf. You may suppress its use to an extent, but in so doing you close an avenue to the mind and soul to the deaf-mute, and in so doing add to his losses."

Edwin A. Hodgson, editor, New York:

"I have never known a case where signs had a harmful effect. Instead, they have stimulated the mind, inspired the spirit and developed the natural capabilities of the individual, through their potency of being a quick, easy, and untrammeled method of intercommunication. I have seen the evil results of unnatural and unwholesome repression, chiefly among the children of the rich, upon whom loving but deluded parents, have spent thousands upon thousands that they might become just like hearing people cultured in mind but wholly untainted by "uncouth gestures" that mark the "deaf and dumb." * * * The well-meaning philanthropist, as well as those who are actuated by base and sordid motives, in their condemnation of the sign-language, are misleading fond parents of deaf children and tending to do these children an irreparable injury."

George T. Dougherty, chemist, Chicago:

"Lip-reading involves too much guess work. Writing is far safer and more dependable in social or business intercourse on the part of the deaf with the hearing, or vice versa. Only about one-third of the common words of speech are visible from the motion of the lips while the remainder are pronounced deep within the mouth and without perceptible motion on the lips. * * * Semi-mutes, those who have lost their hearing at six, eight or ten years of age and over, but retain their power of speech, frequently make a fairly good pronunciation before they first go to oral schools for the deaf; for these the oral method can justly claim no credit whatever though it too frequently has the nerve to parade them in public as its results."

E. C. Wyand, minister, Boston:

"My wife was educated entirely by the oral method but broke from it after school. * * * Last August while on my way to my mother's home in Maryland, we stopped off at Gallaudet College (for the Deaf, Washington) and went through it. My wife was amazed at first, then as we left the girls' department she sat down on the steps and wept as though her heart would break and spelled out this: 'I think it was mean of Miss Fuller, for not telling us of this college.' Miss Fuller, you know, was principal of the oral school. She never permitted the pupils to know there were other schools for the deaf but at Hartford, and they were taught to regard that as a 'dumping ground.'"

W. W. Beadell, editor and proprietor, Arlington, N. J.:

"I did not know a sign until my twentieth year, although deaf from early childhood. I have been told that I am a very good lip-reader; but I know I have never been able to follow an oral address delivered from a platform, no matter how favorable the conditions, nor have I ever met a lip-reader who asserted the possession of any such ability. Fragmentary sentences and guess work must always form the basis of any story of practical utilization of lip-reading under these circumstances."

(Concluded in our next issue)

PUGET SOUND ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Every deaf person in the Puget Sound country is or should be a member of this association.

Why?

Because in union there is strength—we can help one another.

Also come and meet your fellow deaf for a social time, intellectual advancement and moral uplift.

Business meeting, second Saturday night of each month. Social, fourth Saturday night of each month.

Meeting at Carpenter Hall, Fourth Avenue just north of Pine Street.

Officers:

President—True Partridge.

Vice-President—Miss Cleon Morris.

Secretary, Philip L. Axling.

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Bible Class for the deaf meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 3:30 p. m. in Trinity Parish Church, corner Eighth Ave. & James St. All welcome.

Olof Hansen, Lay-reader, in charge

(Continued from Page Fourth)

During the past year thirty religious services were held at the Home.

There are many Home organizations throughout Ohio and they have rendered very efficient service in cheerfully and promptly responding to any appeal, especially the indoor furnishings of the Home.

The condition of the Home in every respect is excellent. They have been able to keep within their resources and no debts are hanging over the Home. May God's blessings attend their efforts. "God helps them that help themselves."—Utten E. Read, in Silent Hoosier.

PHILIP H. BROWN DEAD.

As we go to press word comes of the death of Philip H. Brown, for many years a teacher in the Montana school. He passed away last week at a Butte hospital where he was taking treatment for stomach trouble.

Mr. Brown received his early education at the Rochester school. Later he entered Gallaudet college. After leaving college he taught for a time in the Louisiana school for the deaf, but for years past he has been teacher and manual instructor in the Montana state school for the deaf. He is president of the Montana Deaf Mute Association. His age was about fifty. A widow and one child survive him.

Mr. Root of The Observer was a schoolmate of Mr. Brown at Rochester, Mrs. Hanson at Gallaudet, while A. W. Wright was a pupil under him in Louisiana.

REBECCA REICHL

One of the saddest accidents that ever befell the deaf people of Portland occurred on last Easter Sunday when little Rebecca Reichle, while on her way home from Sunday school, was struck by a motorcycle and almost instantly killed. This pathetic accident was due to failure on the part of the motorcyclist to comply with the law, which forbids autos or motorcycles to pass a standing car. The young motorcyclist is, however, overcome with grief for the great sorrow that his carelessness has caused. But his sorrow cannot be compared to that of the bereaved parents.

Rebecca was an unusually intelligent child. In her school work she was at the head of her class and was making very rapid progress and though only eight years old she was a great help to her parents. She was also a most beautiful Christian child. In speaking to her Sunday school teacher of the great loss her death was to her family, the teacher said: "She is not only a loss to her family but to the world, for she gave promise of being a leader in Christian work." She was buried from the church that she attended every Sabbath with her parents. That she leaves a large circle of friends to mourn her loss was evident by the crowded church and the many beautiful and expensive floral offerings. Surely her parents in the midst of their sorrow should feel proud that so many beautiful things could be truly said of the little girl they had so lovingly reared.

F. C. M.

ONLY FOUR.

Send us the names of four of your friends and four dollars and we will send them each the Observer for one year and in addition will make you a present of a year's subscription.

FOR MR. BELSER TO PONDER

Dear Editor: It has been some time since I have written anything for the deaf mute press, so am feeling rusty. Because silence is known to give consent, like other men I am sometimes impelled to speak that he who reads may know I do not give consent.

In the issue before last Mr. Lawrence Belser, whom I know very well, put down in black and white parts of an argument we had a few years ago, and it is evident he has not yet been convinced that the combined system is the best to use when deaf children are to be educated.

Mr. Belser believes the oral method is the only one that gets practical results in speech and lip reading. So do I. Moreover, I don't suppose anybody conversant with the facts believes any other method will do. The idea that a child could be taught to speak and read the lips by using the sign method or writing method, or any other existing method!

Mr. Belser does not see any good in teaching a deaf child to talk in a combined system school. Neither do I. Neither do I see any good in teaching a deaf child to talk in an oral school or in any school whatsoever. I do not believe that children who were never able to talk will ever be able to talk easily and understandingly in adult life no matter how much time was consumed in teaching speech and speech reading. The argument Mr. Belser used in support of his contention can be applied to oral schools as well. Some years ago I strolled through the grounds of the Pennsylvania Institution at Mt. Airy and saw some boys using a sign language in conversation. Just a glimpse, but it told much.

In this matter of deaf mute education it must always be borne in mind that children are sent to school to obtain an education. A school that embraces all methods is logically the most modern and progressive. Such a school can handle nearly every type of uneducated deaf child and in due course of time turn him out onto the community educated sufficiently to become a useful member of society. A pure oral school can never do such a thing. Since our state schools are supported by popular taxation, it is obvious every citizen of such state having a deaf child is entitled to send said child to be educated and that child must be educated or the taxpayers' money is spent in vain. Hence I cannot favor Mr. Belser's contention that there should be pure oral and pure sign schools. Single methods will never do.

In his article, Mr. Belser does not state clearly what he really wants to see done, but if I infer correctly the state school at Vancouver is doing

exactly what he is driving at. The children there (some of them) are learning speech and speech reading. If they do not converse by means of speech among themselves, what of it? It is sufficient if they use speech in conversing with their teachers, relatives and hearing friends. I've seen it done. Those children who cannot get speech use other methods.

Mr. Belser, why are those children at Vancouver anyway? To get an education. Certainly. Are they getting it? To be sure. So methods be hanged. What is wanted are results, not methods. Can anything be more logical?

Like Mr. Hanson, I would like to see more discussion. So come along, Mr. Belser, and any other oralist.

W. F. SCHNEIDER,
4298 42d Street North, Portland, Ore.

GROWN A BEARD

Word comes from Dayton that Harry Augustus is doing finely in Alaska, and wants his family to move up either there or to Seattle, Wash. Harry has grown a beard, while Jesse West has chin whiskers—both for protection against the weather, we presume. Harry protests, however, that the climate is quite tolerable even in winter, as it is so dry and he does not feel the cold very much. In houses it is as warm as you like. He works even in winter, and makes money, though he can do better in summer when the days are longer.—Ohio Chronicle.

MR. NORDHOUGEN IN THE STATE

Gilman Nordhougen has been located at last at Cheney, Wash., about twenty miles from Spokane. He is a linotype operator and is well pleased with his job. He said that he met Mr. Gustave Anderson in Washington recently. Gustave has decided to come back to North Dakota and will locate at Minot.—North Dakota Banner.

THE OBSERVER

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